1096-J5-2631      **Tammy Muhs\*** (`tammy.muhs@ucf.edu`), Department of Mathematics, University of Central Florida, 4393 Andromeda Loop N, Orlando, FL 32816-1364. *Students Discover Math in the World Around Them: The Use of Projects in a Liberal Arts Mathematics Course.*

Students enrolled in the University of Central Florida's Explorations in Mathematics course explore the beauty and utility of mathematics including symmetry, voting strategies, finance, networks, paths and circuits, as well as finding the mathematical connections with music, art, architecture, and nature. Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to reason critically, think creatively, assess evidence from conclusions, and use skills in abstract and quantitative thinking.

As the theme of the course is "mathematics is everywhere", students complete a culminating project in which they find the mathematics in something that is a major part of their life or source of enjoyment. This results in a plethora of interdisciplinary projects including artistic creations, musical compositions, mathematical poetry, short stories, mock elections, hospitality event planning, virtual travel, educational lesson plans, etc.

This presentation will include information on the project requirements for both small classes of 49 students, as well as large classes of 200 or more students, evaluation criteria for peer reviews and instructor evaluations, student reactions, and lessons learned. (Received September 17, 2013)